

The administration has recently written to the leadership of the House and Senate in support of this simple 1-year extension. In order to extend mandatory price reporting in a timely manner, we need to act today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1845

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of S. 2965, a bill to amend the Livestock Mandatory Price Reporting Act of 1999 in order to modify the termination date for mandatory price reporting.

The current authority for the USDA Livestock Mandatory Price Reporting expired on October 23 of this year. It is important to the U.S. livestock markets that we maintain a dependable flow of information to producers to help them price their products in the marketplace. The bill before us today provides for a simple 1-year reauthorization of the existing program, and I am not aware of any serious opposition to this bill.

I do regret that we have not taken the time to consider a more careful revision of the statute prior to this point. We should have taken up this issue much earlier during the 108th Congress and spent the time to consider corrections to the deficiencies various groups have noted in the program as it currently exists. But since that has not been done, this 1-year extension seems like the best alternative available to maintain a stable flow of information to our producers.

It is my hope that, during this 1-year extension, the Committee on Agriculture of this House will hold hearings on this topic and consider ways it might improve the USDA price reporting system. In the meantime, however, a simple extension seems to be the best way to serve the market information needs for our farmers and ranchers.

I encourage all Members to support passage of this Senate bill.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to support passage of S. 2965, a bill to extend for one year the Livestock Mandatory Price Reporting Act of 1999. As the author of the original legislation, I am pleased to see that this important program will continue for one additional year. It is my hope that during that time the program will be improved and, if it is proven cost effective, made permanent.

Four major packers slaughter 80 percent of fed cattle and process about 85 percent of boxed beef. According to producer organizations, because of the high level of concentration, it is very important to maintain a level playing field for all producers.

Mandatory price reporting addresses non-contract livestock producers concerns that the increasing use of contracts prevents complete transparency in livestock prices that, in the past, would've been made public at auction. Additionally, independent livestock producers fear that the increasing use of contracts means that there is less of a market for their

product, and the price they will receive will remain low through possible packer collusion. Mandatory price reporting provides market transparency, thus ensuring that our producers get the best prices for their livestock.

Mr. Speaker, I am very supportive of this one-year extension. It will give Congress additional time to determine the efficacy of the program, whether the cost of the program outweighs the benefit, and verify price data problems that arose with USDA's implementation of the program have since been fixed.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to adopt this important legislation to extend this program for a year.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RENZI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2965.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 2965, the Senate bill just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

SUPPORTING GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL TOURETTE SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 430) recognizing the importance of early diagnosis, proper treatment, and enhanced public awareness of Tourette Syndrome and supporting the goals and ideals of National Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 430

Whereas Tourette Syndrome is an inherited neurological disorder characterized by involuntary and sudden movements or repeated vocalizations;

Whereas approximately 200,000 people in the United States have been diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome and many thousands more remain undiagnosed;

Whereas lack of public awareness has increased the social stigma attached to Tourette Syndrome;

Whereas early diagnosis and treatment of Tourette Syndrome can prevent physical and psychological harm;

Whereas there is no known cure for Tourette Syndrome and treatment involves

multiple medications and therapies with costs that can be prohibitive;

Whereas the Tourette Syndrome Association is the only national nonprofit membership organization dedicated to identifying the cause, finding the cure, and controlling the effects of Tourette Syndrome; and

Whereas the Tourette Syndrome Association has designated May 15 through June 15 as National Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month, the goal of which is to educate the public about the nature and effects of Tourette Syndrome: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) recognizes the impact that Tourette Syndrome can have on people living with the disorder;

(2) recognizes the importance of an early diagnosis and proper treatment of Tourette Syndrome;

(3) recognizes the need for enhanced public awareness of Tourette Syndrome;

(4) supports the goals and ideals of National Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month, as designated by the Tourette Syndrome Association; and

(5) encourages the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States and interested organizations to observe National Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 430.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 430 introduced by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), my friend and colleague from my home State of Florida.

This resolution recognizes the importance of early diagnosis, proper treatment and enhanced public awareness of Tourette Syndrome and supports the goals and ideals of National Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month.

Tourette Syndrome, or TS, is a neurological disorder that arises during childhood or adolescence. TS is characterized by repeated and involuntary body movements, tics, and uncontrollable vocal sounds. Tics can include eye blinking, repeated throat clearing or sniffing, arm thrusting, kicking movements or jumping. Although the symptoms of TS vary from person to person and range from very mild to severe, the majority of cases fall into the mild category. Some associated conditions can include attention problems, impulsiveness and learning disabilities.

The National Institutes of Health, NIH, estimates that about 2 percent of Americans are affected by TS. However, these numbers are thought to be